

Director's Report
March 2012

Excitement is in the Air at Montgomery County Public Libraries

Many exciting programs are taking place at Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) during the month of March. Here's a preview of some of the programs that will be presented.

Teen Tech Week, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) takes place March 4-10. This year's theme, "Geek Out @ your library!" encourages teens to check out the digital resources like e-books, movies, music, audiobooks and databases available at the library. Our e-books and other digital resources are not just for teens. We offer classic video storybooks and interactive e-books for children as well as e-books, audiobooks and streaming music of interest to adults.

Lakshmi Swaminathan and students from the Natananjali School of Dance share the rich cultural history of India through dance and storytelling on March 10 at the Davis Library. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Davis Chapter, is open to all ages.

Two special teen authors visit the Bethesda Library on March 13 beginning at 5 p.m. Ally Carter will discuss her popular Gallagher Girls Series and the *Heist Society*, and Rachel Hawkins will be at the library to celebrate the release of *Spell Bound*, Book 3 in the Hex Hall Series. Copies of the authors' books will be available for purchase. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Bethesda Chapter.

Read Across Maryland

I encourage you to make reading a habit that will last a lifetime. Participate in the "Read 30 Minutes for 30 Days Challenge," held annually in March as a part of Read Across Maryland. This reading initiative encourages individuals, families and communities to read at least 30 minutes for 30 days beginning March 2nd through March 31st. For more information, visit the Read Across Maryland website, www.readacrossmaryland.org.

Information You Can Use

Do you have questions about downloading e-books to your electronic device? Teen volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions about borrowing e-books from MCPL. Bring your iPad, Kindle, Nook or other electronic devices to the Davis Library on Saturday, March 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. "Computer Basics" workshops are also being held throughout the month at the Damascus and Rockville Memorial libraries.

MCPL offers a variety of resources for parents and caregivers. We also offer early literacy story times for babies, preschoolers and toddlers. You may visit our website (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library) for complete information about programs and services at our libraries.

In partnership with the Social Security Administration, MCPL is hosting free informational workshops about social security and retirement benefits at the Rockville

Memorial Library on March 14 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The workshops, “Social Security Update” and “Are You Ready to Retire?” will be presented by a representative from the Social Security Administration.

Literary Luncheon Series

The Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. (FOLMC) present the 24th Annual Literary Luncheon Series on March 15 at Strathmore Mansion. The program features Emmy award-winning director and author, Thomas Kaufman. For more information, visit the FOLMC website, www.folmc.org.

Count on Us

You can count on us to provide the information, materials and programs to support your informational, educational and cultural needs and interests.

I encourage you to visit your public library regularly; and be sure to check out our online events calendar for a complete listing of library programs and activities. Exciting things are happening at MCPL!

B. Parker Hamilton